



## Horse Use and Pack Animal Guidelines

Exploring Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve on horseback or with pack animals can be fun and rewarding, but requires some preparation on your part. We want you, your animals, and other visitors to have a great experience!



<b>Where can we ride?</b>	<p>Most of the national park and the entire national preserve are open to horse use. Refer to the map on the back. The following areas are <i>closed</i> to horseback riding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>--Pinyon Flats campground</li><li>- - Visitor Center parking lot, area, or nature trail</li><li>--Mosca Creek picnic area (near Dunes parking lot)</li><li>--The Dunes Parking Lot and the area</li></ul>	<p>directly west of the Dunes Parking Lot, as far as the High Dune. This area is for pedestrians only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- - Wellington Ditch Trail</li><li>- - Montville Nature Trail except for the southern section required to access the Mosca Pass Trail. Please lead your horses on this section of the Nature Trail.</li><li>- -any paved roads, except when crossing</li><li>- - the Sand Ramp Trail between the campground and Point of No Return. Use Medano Primitive Road instead.</li></ul>
<b>Where can we leave our trailer?</b>	<p>Leave your trailers at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- - the amphitheater parking lot. Be sure you don't block access to the RV dump station.</li><li>--Montville /Mosca Pass Parking Lot</li><li>- - Point of No Return, for day-use only and if space permits.</li></ul>	<p>Horse trailers may not be parked elsewhere in the national park. If you are riding in the national preserve and accessing it from the east side of the Sangre de Cristos, you may leave your trailers at trailhead parking areas in the Rio Grande National Forest, including Mosca Pass, the Rainbow Trail parking area, and the Music Pass parking area.</p>
<b>What other regulations do I need to know?</b>	<p>To limit the spread of non-native weeds, horses must be fed weed-free hay for 24 hours before entering the national park or national preserve. All feed and hay you take with you must be certified weed-free.</p> <p>Dogs must be leashed at all times.</p> <p>Shovel and remove manure from the parking area before your ride and after trailering your animals.</p>	<p>Free-trailing your horses is not permitted.</p> <p>Hikers should yield the trail to horseback riders. Please walk your horses when passing hikers.</p> <p>If you ride cross-country, please spread out to minimize impact on vegetation and soils.</p> <p>Steep dune faces are loose and potentially dangerous.</p>
<b>Where can we camp with our horses?</b>	<p>Camping with horses is permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- - at the Little Medano, Aspen, Cold Creek, and Sand Creek backcountry camps. A free permit is required which you can obtain at the Visitor Center along with maps and general information.</li><li>- - in the wilderness portions of the national park except for those areas closed to horses (see above and map on back). Obtain your required free permit at the Visitor Center.</li><li>- -anywhere in the national preserve except the Medano Road designated campsites. No camping within 300 feet</li></ul>	<p>of lakes and 200 feet of streams.</p> <p>In the national park, groups may include no more than 6 people and up to 6 horses. In the national preserve, groups may include up to 10 people and additional horses to equal a total of 25 (people and horses counted together).</p> <p>Picket your horses at least 100 feet from the brown post in the campsites, at least 100' from water, and in a way that prevents them from damaging trees or pawing around tree trunks.</p> <p>Follow minimum impact camping guidelines (see back).</p>

<b>What animals are considered pack animals?</b>	Horses, mules, burros, donkeys or asses, and llamas may be used in the national park and preserve as pack animals.	
<b>Minimum Impact Guidelines</b>	<p>Always try to minimize the impact you and your animals have on the landscape, vegetation, and water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-- Scatter manure away from campsites to prevent flies from gathering and speed decay.</li><li>-- Shovel and remove accumulated manure from parking areas.</li><li>-- Wood fires are not permitted in the national park backcountry. Use stoves instead.</li><li>-- Wood fires may be built in the national preserve. Gather dead and down wood less than 4” in diameter only. If possible, use a stove instead.</li><li>--Horses must be fed weed-free hay</li></ul>	<p>for 24 hours prior to entering the national park or national preserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>--All feed and hay you may take with you camping must be certified weed- free.</li><li>-- When tying your horses, select a dry spot at least 100’ from the camping area and stretch a rope between two large, stout trees. Position the rope well above the level of your horse’s head, and tie your horse so that it can move about freely along the rope. If camping for more than one night, move your hitch rope every night to disperse the impacts on vegetation and soils.</li><li>-- Pack out all trash and toilet paper.</li><li>-- Bury human waste at least 6” deep, and at least 100’ from water. In the open dunefield <i>only</i>, human waste should be buried 1’ deep.</li></ul>

**No Public Horse Use Zones--gray shaded areas are closed to horse and pack animal use**

